N. Y. City Postal Employees Hold Meeting

Journal and Guide 2-4-39 Norfolk Va.

Participants in the recent annual meeting of the New York City Branch of the National Alliance of Postal Employees are shown in the above photo. Shown, left to right: E. Albert Norris, president of the New York City Branch; District President Percy L. Conrad; Senator James M. Mead, and the Hon. Albert Goldman, postmaster of New York City, the guest speaker.

Harlem P.O. Workers Spend $6,000,000

Journal and Guide 2-4-39

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The 3,000 postal employees in the Harlem area represent a spending power of six-million dollars a year which makes them an important factor in these times of restricted incomes.

This statement was made by the Honorable Albert Goldman, New York City postmaster, at the recent annual meeting of the New York City Branch of the National Alliance of Postal Employees, held at the Little Theatre of the Y. M. C. A. 180 West 135th Street.

Mr. Goldman appeared as guest speaker on the program at which E. Albert Norris, president of District 8, presided.

"The three-thousand postal workers who live in Harlem represent a spending power of six million dollars a year, and that makes them an important factor in these days of restricted incomes when so many people are looking for jobs," Mr. Goldman declared.

"As a select group, the postal employees here, in addition to being privileged to have such an important part in the community life, also have an obligation which is two fold. First, they are a part of a great service organization which covers the entire United States; they are a part of Uncle Sam's biggest business.

"They are looked up to by their neighbors as being government officials, and a part of the government service. Secondly, this is important, because of that fact it is expected of them that they shall set an example of good citizenship and good Americanism, over and above what is usually expected of good citizens in this country."

Mr. Goodman paid tribute to the men who have been responsible for the various extra activities of the postal service in New York, and revealed that during the past year twenty new post office annexes and stations have been opened in the city.

"They are your facilities as well as mine," he said. "And I trust that we will keep on improving the States; they are a part of Uncle York Post Office until every place we have is a thoroughly up to date and modern office, worthy of a community which contributes ten per cent of the Federal revenue of the country each year."

Other participants on the program included, Mrs. G. J. Cox Merrill Dames, S. B. Williams Percy L. Conrad, Miss Lelia Higgs Elmer E. Armstead, and the Youth Choral Group under the direction of Alfred Sandifer.

J. O. Gilliam Again To Seek Presidency

Journal and Guide 1-29-39

Biennial Meeting To Be Held From August 15 to 19

Norfolk, Va.

CHICAGO—(ANP) — The 10th biennial convention of the National Alliance of Postal Employes will be held here August 15-19. Norval E. Perkins is president of the Chicago branch, which will be host to the parent body.

More than 100 cities throughout the nation will send delegates and visitors to the Windy City for the meeting, the requests for reservations show. William A. Little, 4601 Michigan avenue is general convention chairman in charge of arrangements for entertaining visitors.

Headquarters for the convention have been established at the Wabash Avenue branch, Y. M. C. A., 3763 S. Wabash avenue, where business assemblies are to be held

A public mass meeting will be held on the evening of August 14 at Metropolitan Community church, where Mayor Edward J. Kelly and Postmaster Ernest J. Kruetgen and other leaders will extend official welcome to Chicago.

U. S. Senators Scott W. Lucas and James M. Slattery also have been invited to participate. Meeting in conjunction with the parent body of the alliance will be the Women's auxiliary which also has branches all over the United States.

The question of keeping the door of opportunity open to Negro youth in connection with civil service occupation, and the matter of securing deserved promotions to supervisory positions in the postal service, as well as preferred assignments in various capacities will claim much attention at the convention, according to the scheduled outlined.

Attention also will be given the matter of purchasing home office building in Washington, D. C., and the continuing of a full-time welfare director there to make contacts in behalf of the alliance.

GILLIAM SEEKS OFFICE

An unusual amount of interest is being centered about the election of officers for the next two years. Jerry O. Gilliam of Norfolk, Va., a former president of the body is seeking to replace Lafayette F. Ford of St. Louis, present incumbent, who seeks reelection.

Floyd A. Douglas of New Orleans is out to beat Alvin W. Bryan of Atlanta for the vice presidency. Thomas P. Bomar and H. M. Stanback both of Washington, are in the race for secretary. William D. Laws of Nashville is a candidate for treasurer against Robert E. L. Hutton of New Orleans, present incumbent, who seeks reelection.

The editorship of the Postal Alliance, official organ is being sought by Edward LaSalle of Kansas City, Kan., and Joseph B. Brown, Jr., of St. Louis. A welfare director is to be elected, also. This position has been held for the past three years by G. N. T. Gray of Indianapolis.

The officers of the Women's auxiliary are: president, Mrs. G. N. T. Gray, Washington; vice president, Mrs. A. G. Spears, Sumter, S. C.; secretary, Mrs. Grant Adams, Atlanta; treasurer, Mrs. Heywood Gantt, Detroit; and president emeritus, Mrs. M. M. Dowell, Atlanta.

Postal Body To Convene Here Aug. 14

Defender
7-29-39

Ralph E. Mizelle, assistant solicitor of the Post Office department, Washington, D. C., will be among the guest speakers to open the tenth bi-annual meet of the National Alliance of Postal Employees' convention, Monuday, August 14 at Metropolitan Community church. This announcement was issued by William A. Little, convention chairman of the Chicago branch, which will play host to the five day confab.

Mayor Edward J. Kelly and Postmaster Ernest J. Kruetgen, as well as national executives of the Alliance also will speak on the program. Prof. J. Wesley Jones is arranging musical features for the occasion. James J. S. Keys, 220 East Forty-fourth street, is general secretary of plans for the convention.

Mrs. Charles L. McCutcheon, 517 West Firty-fourth place, was hostess to the women's auxiliary of the Chicago branch of the National Alliance of Postal Employees, Tuesday evening. The ladies made extensive plans for entertaining delegates and visitors to the convention. Highlights of social features, according to plans, will include a dance reception, at Bacon's Casino, a luncheon at Morris' cafe, and a card party at the Quincy club. Mrs. Maude L. Riggs, 6818 St. Lawrence avenue ,is president, while Mrs. Lucille Shepherd, 6051 Calumet avenue, is convention chairman for the women's festivities.

Announce Plans For Next Meet

8-26-39
Journal-Guide

Plan Approved For Building of National Office

CHICAGO, Ill. (ANP) — Representing nearly 18,000 Negro postal workers in 45 states, the 10th bi-ennial convention of the National Alliance of Postal Employes came to a close here last Friday night.

With major statutes enacted into law, and with resolutions calling upon Postmaster General James A. Farley to provide for the creation of Negro official positions in the major supervisory offices in Washington, and a financial report showing that an all-time high peak in total receipts of approximately $60,000 had been reached, the convention passed into history as one of the most constructive, as well as the biggest in the 26-year history of the group.

There were no changes in the major executive offices in the N. A. P. E., with the exception of Joseph B. Brown of St. Louis, who replaced Percy R. Hines of this city as editor of "The Postal Alliance," the official organ. Mr. Hines did not offer for re-election this year, and the returns from the votes sent out from Washington gave all the incumbent office-holders their posts again for the biennial period. Officers were installed by Jerry O. Gilliam of Norfolk, Va.

The officers for the ensuing two-year term are Lafayette J. Ford, St. Louis, president; Alvin W. Bryant, Atlanta, vice-president; Thomas P. Bomar, Washington, secretary; Joseph B. Brown, Jr., St. Louis, editor, The Postal Alliance, and Robert E. L. Hutton, New Orleans, treasurer.

PRESENTS PICKENS WITH CHECK

On Thursday morning the N. A. P. E. presented Dean William Pickens, branch director of the NAACP with a check for $100 and this was taken as an indication of a unity of programs in the field of discriminatory practices against Negro postal workers in the matter of promotions, appointments, the securing of supervisory positions, and the general elimination of existing injustices against colored postal employees.

Negro postal workers represent approximately $36,000,000 in annual incomes, and this economic stability as a group is reflected in the solvency of the National Alliance of Postal Employes, which showed in the treasurer's report a gross net worth in cash and government bonds of $53,518.36, clear and unencumbered.

A plan for the building of a national office building and home in Washington was introduced by Phillip H. Holland, Birmingham, after a referendum to the membership at large had shown a desire for such a home, and the plan was accepted by the convention.

Holland's plan calls for the allotment of a portion of each member's monthly dues to be laid aside in a separate fund for the present banking accounts, to accumulate over a five-year period, after which time the N. A. P. E. will have sufficient funds to buy a building in Washington outright and by cash payment, without interfering with any of the other funds of the organization.

It will be necessary, however, for the next convention in 1941 to continue the program inaugurated at this convention by constitutional action, in order to assure its permanency.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

The report of the national welfare director, G. N. T. Gray of Washington, occupied the spotlight at the convention, for it was this department which formed the fundamental basis for the organization of the N. A. P. E.

Acquiring of foremen in post offices in Chicago, Washington, New York City, Baltimore, Detroit, Columbus, Cleveland, St. Louis and Philadelphia were cited as evidences of the increasing influence of the organization.

Among the speakers addressing the convention were Foreman J. Wesley Jones of the Chicago post office, and Burress Cooper, a clerk-in-charge of the Chicago Terminal Railway Post Office, the only Negro holding such a post.

Calling attention to the fact that the only supervisory position of any importance now held by a Negro was that of assistant chief clerk-at-large, John Wesley Dobbs, Atlanta, introduced a resolution on Friday calling upon Postmaster General James A. Farley to create the position of chief clerk, and assistant chief clerk-at-large, both new positions in the office of the second assistant postmaster general, and two similar posts in the office of the first assistant postmaster general. The resolution was adopted and the letters prepared for forwarding to Mr. Farley, after the convention had approved this action.

GREATEST CONVENTION

With 84 accredited delegates, and over 200 visitors from all parts of the country, the convention went into history as being the biggest convention ever held by the alliance since its inception at Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1913. An outstanding visitor was former National President Alonzo Glenn of Cleveland, under whose administration the allience changed its constitution to permit the admission of post office clerks, letter carriers and other affiliated employees of the department into membership.

The convention opened on Monday night with public welcoming services at the Metropolitan Community church, with Percy R. Hines, retiring editor, as the master of ceremonies. In the absence of Mayor Edward J. Kelley, who was on the West Coast and unable to return in time for the gathering, Major Oscar Patterson, assistant corporation counsel of Chicago, greeted the group for Mayor Kelley.

Others who spoke were Ralph Mizelle of Washington, attorney in the solicitor's office; Postmaster E. J. Kruetgen, Sidney M. Jackson, Washington, and President Ford. Norval E. Perkins, president of the Chicago branch, was assisted in convention arrangements by William A. Little, who was general chairman, and Mrs. Maude L. Riggs, president of the Chicago Ladies auxiliary, was in charge of the arrangements for the meeting of the auxliiary to the N. A. P. E. Mrs. Marie M. Gray of Washington, president of this body, was the presiding officer.

POSTAL ALLIANCE REELECTS GRAY

CHICAGO (ANP)—G. N. T. Gray was reelected national welfare director of the National Alliance of Postal Employes as they concluded their sessions here Friday.

Fireworks and sensational disclosures made in Mr. Gray's annual report were ordered expunged from the public records and the alliance minutes, and when the election of welfare director was in order, Mr. Gray was reelected without a single dissenting vote, after a pledge of cooperation with the executive committee, which had once contemplated his dismissal.

The divorcing of the benefit department, which handles all the insurance, was accomplished, and the officers of the N.A.P.E. proper were chosen to serve as officers of this separate department. Readjustment of delegate apportionment was made in accordance with resolutions submitted and modified by E. Albert Norris, president of the New York City branch, the largest in the body.

Officers were installed and the convention adjourned, to meet again in Baltimore in 1941.

POSTMASTER FARLEY SENDS GREETINGS TO POSTAL MEET

8-27-39

By RALPH E. MIZELLE

Once again it is my privilege to bring you greetings from the Honorable James A. Farley, the Postmaster General.

In looking over the progress of the Negro in the postal service for the past six years, it is interesting to note that there has been a steady rise in appointments of Negroes to serve in a supervisory capacity and in other high positions of trust. It is believed by many that these accomplishments have been due, among other things, to newly appointed Postmaster and to the Postmaster General; that is new blood coming into the department from a public which was and is becoming more and more acquainted with the Negro who is serving throughout the country in responsible positions.

As you recall, during the early days of the National Alliance of Postal Employees the prestige of the Negro in the postal service was at a very low ebb. The records show that almost immediately after the organization of this great welfare body the fortune of the Negro in the postal service began to change for the better. Whereas it is probably not equitable to attribute all of the progress of Negro employees in the service to the National Alliance of Postal Employees, it is fair to say that it had a major part in this progress.

There has been much said by those who are not acquainted with the problems of the Negro in the

service about the wisdom of having a Negro organization. It has been said that we are deliberately segregating ourselves. The argument of self-segregation has been employed in many instances to discourage the Negro employees from joining the Alliance.

When we contrast the condition of the Negro employee in the service 25 years ago when this organization was formed with his present healthy status, we can easily see that such an argument is not tenable. As most of you know, the Negro in the Railway Mail Service was prohibited from joining the white welfare organizations by their by-laws and there was little or no bid for his membership in the clerks and carriers' welfare organizations. I have been told by several of the founders of the Alliance of the well-founded plan formulated by white postal workers and put in operation 25 years ago to discredit the Negro postal worker and eventually retire him from the service; that this plan was put into action and Negroes where indiscriminately discharged and that promotions were almost unheard of. This movement forced the Negro in the postal service to organize. This bit of history is related to acquaint those of you who do not know with the reasons for the formation of the Postal Alliance.

When we consider the many other welfare organizations in the postal service and the racial or religious character of each we find additional reasons for the Negro as a race to organize. We have the Catholic Welfare Organization known as the Holy Name Society. We have the Italian organization known as the Columbian Society. We have a Protestant organization known as the St. James Society and the Jewish organization known as the Jewish Welfare Society. All these organizations are made up of postal employees who have organized for their welfare. There are also many other organizations throughout the country. If these groups, comprised of men who enjoy greater opportunities for advancement than the Negro in the service find it expedient to organize, certainly we should.

The labor organizations such as the United National Association of Post Office Clerks and the American Federation of Labor are making strong bids for Negro members in certain sections of this country, but it is plain that they have not been able or disposed to safeguard for the Negro the same equality of work and promotion as for their white members. All this is to show that there is a definite need for a Negro organization in the postal service and that every Negro should be a member.

Study Unemployed Negroes

While we are assembled here taking stock of our accomplishments and expressing hope for greater accomplishments in the future, I would suggest that you give a little consideration to the plight of the Negro who is without work, some having been without work for more than ten years. I wish you would also give serious thought to the problems confronting those Negroes who are being almost daily discharged from jobs they have held for years and who are being replaced by white workers for no other reason than the fact that they are colored and that the job is wanted by a white man. About the easiest and most futile way of settling a discussion of this kind would be to say that it is race prejudice and nothing can be done about it, but it would certainly be a very dangerous attitude to take.

It is true that the Negro in the past 30 years has progressed in almost every avenue of endeavor. It is true that he has received honor and recognition well merited in the arts, the sciences, the judiciary and in appointments and elections to many high positions in the civic structure of our country, but we must realize that these honors and this recognition has been extended to us because we are and have been a representative group of people who have through our industry made a definite contribution to the civic and economic welfare of the country. We made these contributions because we were able and willing to work. We are able and willing to work now, but day by day we are losing ground.

I regret that I am unable to offer a solution for this which appears to be the most serious problem confronting the Negroes in this country, but I do believe that the brain and industry of you who have made this national organization such a great success will be able to formulate some program or join with other groups to formulate some program. As I see it a little more than a spirit of charity should prompt your deliberation on this serious problem for when we reach the point in this country where the major part of the Negro race becomes a public charge; when we reach the point where we become wards of the Government you, who are apparently secure now, will in some way be forced to join your brother in poverty in some Western compound just as the Indians who owned and operated this country hundreds of years ago.

I will admit that it is a momentous task, but once it is undertaken there are many angles from which to attack.

There are millions of dollars belonging to Negroes on deposit in banks throughout this country. This money is idle. It should in some way be employed to create jobs for Negroes. There are banks in New York, Philadelphia, Washington and many cities throughout the country which have millions of dollars belonging to Negroes on deposit and which continue to refuse the employment of Negroes in any capacity. There are Negro banks throughout the country today which are qualified by experience and in which deposits are insured by the Federal government up to $5,000 just like all the other banks in the country. There should be more and this idle money which is being used to create wealth for those who refuse to give us economic consideration should be withdrawn and placed at least in institutions which will create jobs for Negroes.

Only Employed As Messengers

There are millions of dollars of Negroes on deposit in banks throughout greater New York. There are Negroes in New York City trained by experience and education, capable of manning at least two banks and yet there is not a bank in New York which will employ a Negro in any capacity excepting that of a messenger or guard. There were two banks manned entirely by Negroes in New York but these banks were closed and the securities were liquidated or transferred. The reason for closing these banks was none other than the majority of stockholders had no interest in the Negro communities where these banks were located.

There are millions of dollars spent annually by Negro social societies and benevolent organizations for social entertainment which could and should be put to work instead creating jobs and opportunities for Negroes to work and make a living.

It is true that you will be confronted with the fact that many of our business organizations have failed, but you also have many which are successful and which have been successful for a period of years. You have here in your own great city department stores owned and operated by Negroes, employing Negroes who otherwise would probably be on the relief rolls. We have in the east many businesses taking shape. A Negro woman in Atlantic City, N. J., who for no other purpose than to create jobs bought and equipped a modern drugstore which is now employing 18 Negro workers. This drugstore is manned entirely by Negroes. Mrs. Sarah Washington who opened this business did not do this for profit alone for she conducts a huge manufacturing and distributing cosmetic company.

Farley Honors Booker T. Washington

In conclusion I wish to call your attention to a very signal honor which has recently come to us. For the last 150 years the postal department has issued stamps commemorating various historical events of this country. There are many current events which have been celebrated by the issuance of postal stamps commemorating the events.

Postmen Vote to Buy A Permanent Home for Body

Ford Reelected; Brown Is Named Editor

By E. H. LAWSON

CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 20.—Sessions of the National Alliance of Postal Employees closed here today with the unanimous election of G. N. T. Gray, of Washington, as Welfare Director for the ensuing two-year term, to succeed himself.

The sessions were addressed by Ralph Mizelle, Assistant Solicitor of the Post Office Department, and Sidney M. Jackson, assistant chief clerk at large, highest ranking colored officials, who urged the Alliance to carry on until it represented a majority of all colored employees of the department's some 29,000.

J. Wesley Dobbs, of Atlanta, following reports of the Secretary T. P. Bomar and R. E. L. Hutton, treasurer, stated that the organization was the cleanest financially that he had ever come in contact with. Dobbs was a delegate, though retired from the service.

The Alliance went on record in favor of buying a permanent home in the District of Columbia, and named a committee to formulate plans. The committee reported favorably a five-cent and dime proposition for two years' trial toward purchase of the property.

Pickens, Gets $100

Dean Pickens, of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, was presented with $100 for the association after he had spoken on the value of organization. The Alliance endorsed the Emancipation Celebration of J. Wesley Washington, a $2,000,000 project of the State of Illinois.

Other officers elected were Lafayette F. Ford, of St. Louis, president; A. W. Bryant, of Atlanta, vice-president; Thomas P. Bomar, of Washington, D. C., secretary; R. E. L. Hutton, of New Orleans, treasurer; Joseph B. Brown, of St. Louis, editor of The Postal Alliance.

A large number of welfare matters were considered by the organization in executive session. A resolution, introduced by Dobbs, was adopted, favoring additional superintendents, foremen, assistant chief clerks at large, and membership on the inspection force of the Post Office Department.

Change in the method of selection of delegates was made, favoring the smaller branches. A proposal for initiative and referendum was defeated. Mrs. Harriet Shippen, clerk in the secretary's office, was given promotion. Officers were installed by J. O. Gilliam, of Norfolk, former president.

Ed Harris:

RECOMMENDS TO THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS AN ATHLETIC PROGRAM

A FEW DAYS AGO the National Negro Congress made one of the best moves it has made in some time when it elected Dr. Charles A. Lewis, to succeed Arthur Huff Fauset as its president.

It is a point of interest for this column, other than that Dr. Lewis holds my great respect, in that the new president is one of the most athletically-minded men of the community.

As a staunch Lincoln University alumnus, Dr. Lewis is well known for his staunch espousal of the annual football frolic between his Alma Mater and Howard University.

In other sports Dr. Lewis has shown his continued and deep interest.

Now he has a chance to do something about the things he and others have felt should be done in this great city.

I recommend to the National Negro Congress as part of its future program, an athletic policy that will reach the entire city.

To those who will hastily say that athletes have nothing to do with the social problems in which the organization has been interested, let me point out a few facts.

Here in the United States one of the cardinal points of the New Deal is attention to the public health and youth, reached chiefly through athletic programs that are both helpful and entertaining.

In the dictator-ridden countries of Europe and other sections of the globe, the youth of the nation has been one of the points of interest in their particular idealism. It is, perhaps, one of the few features that I find of worth in such countries as Italy, Germany and Russia. Aside from the perfidious training of young girls and boys for military service, the programs established for youth athletically are of real worth.

To me such a program in the National Negro Congress would have far reaching consequences.

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FIRST, it will attract to the cause young men and young women who are yet too young to be interested in the serious and deep theories and practices of the organization.

Secondly, it would provide the backing for the various endeavors that should be held in this city and which are sadly lacking.

Consider that with the whole-hearted support of such a large body there might be a worthwhile indoor or outdoor track meet staged, giving white and colored boys and young men the opportunities that they ordinarily do not get in this city.

There might be an amateur boxing tournament, which, I am sure, would be attractive to young pugilists of both races, giving particularly to the colored fighter a chance for fairness which he does not get in most of the shows operated thus far.

Such annual features as the Howard-Lincoln game might be backed and promoted by the organization.

Argue that these things are commercial features, argue that they are foreign to the scheme of things in the NNC, argue that no other organization does these things, in fact, argue anything that you would wish, and I will still contend that it is a good idea and wodld bear looking into.

Unless I am mistaken in my knowledge of Dr. Lewis, I will lay it on the line that the next few months will see some unusual changes in the policies of the NNC—and for the better. In those things that concern sports Dr. Lewis will have my whole-hearted support.

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A FEW sentences back I wrote that the Howard-Lincoln game might be promoted by the NNC or some other similar groups. It may seem funny that an event that concerns two such institutions as Howard and Lincoln should be taken up by a third party.

Nevertheless something must be done or else the "classic" as such will die.

The two schools should provide teams of sufficient calibre to attract the public.

It should be held some place where the public will be available to support it in sufficiently large numbers to make it a financial success.

Most important of all, the game must be "sold" to the public again. Interest must be revived. The patrons must again be convinced that attending the game is a necessary part of their holiday festivity. This necessitates publicity, promotion and money. That's where the third party comes in.

Except for the last game held here, when a truly energetic committee went to work and made it a success, the principal drawback of the annual football fiesta has been the lackadasical way in which attempts were made to arouse public interest. Most of the time there was no concerted effort.

So your correspondent feels that a sound promotion program, combined with teams of calibre worth watching, the Howard-Lincoln game could be restored to the place it once held, when attendance at the game went hand in hand with turkey on Thanksgiving and the football fan did not feel that he had to offer apologies when he announced he was going to see a football game.

D.C. CHAPTER OF NEGRO CONGRESS SEEKING FUNDS

Plans for the drive for funds for the National Negro Congress Washington Council, were in final stages of formulation this week as preparation was made to swing the campaign into action on September 15.

The decision of the executive committee, which met under the direction of U. Simpson Tate Washington Council treasurer, was that the procedure of the drive would be to delegate the soliciting of funds to teams or units.

Books of coupon pledges for one dollar each will be made available to the public by the teams.

Seek $1,000

The objective of the drive is $1,000.

It was estimated that $250 of the money would be used to purchase a mimeograph machine, another portion for office furniture, and the remainder to start an emergency reserve fund.

It is the first time, the Rev. Arthur Gray declared, in the two-year history of the Washington Council that a public appeal has been made for funds.

Members of Committee

Members of the steering committee of the campaign are:

Robert Greenburg, U.F.W.A., Labor Department; Prof. J. M. Nabrit, Howard University Law School; the Rev A. D. Gray, Plymouth Congregational Church; Clarence Toliver; Clarence Johnson, Interior Department; Bertha Blair, American League for Peace and Democracy; U. Simpson Tate, N.C.C.; Henry Rhine, U.F.W.A.; Jack Mink, United Cafeteria Workers of America No 471;

Corinne K. Robinson, U.S.H.A.; C. C. House, United Office and Professional Workers No 27; Julia Katz, Women's Trade Union League; Harry Gantt, Newspaper Guild.

National Negro Congress Seeks to Block Dies Committee Funds

Secretary John P. Davis Terms Investigation Un-American In Labelling Congress Communist

(Staff Correspondence)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Charging the Dies committee, which investigated un-American activities, with utter disregard of the truth, the National Negro Congress, by John P. Davis, its secretary, urged Congress to decline to appropriate any funds for the continuation of this committee.

In a letter addressed to Speaker William B. Bankhead of the House for the national executive committee of the Congress, Mr. Davis denied that the National Negro Congress is either a Communist organization or that it is controlled by the Communist party. The committee in its report, submitted to the House on January 3, had made those charges.

The letter to Mr. Bankhead stated:

"Testimony concerning the National Negro Congress was never made orally before the committee. Such testimony as was given was submitted privately to the committee in writing by a witness who styled himself 'Walter S. Steele, representing the National Republic and chairman of the American Coalition Committee on National Security.

NO REPRESENTATION

"The committee at no time indicated that the National Negro Congress was under investigation. At no time was any official of the National Negro Congress given the opportunity to affirm or deny the charges made in the hidden testimony of Mr. Steele. It, therefore, had no opportunity to defend itself against the base and malicious testimony submitted privately to the committee.

"Mr. Dies comes from a state where Negroes are barred from participation in the primaries of the Democratic party. He comes from a district where, for many congressional elections the only candidate has been one of the Democratic party, running without opposition.

"Of the 304,279 persons in his district 24.9 per cent or 74,164 are Negroes. In 1930 Negroes of voting age numbered 40,923. These Negro citizens have never had the opportunity to exercise any effective franchise in Mr. Dies' district.

"In this district Mr. Dies has been elected repeatedly by a vote of less than 10 per cent of the total population. He has been one of a group of reactionary leaders in control of the Democratic party in Texas, who have persistently sought to deny Negro citizens their constitutional American right of franchise. He has proved himself an enemy of the Negro people, an enemy of the Constitution of our country, a protagonist of fascism and un-Americanism.

BITTER OPPONENT OF ANTI-LYNCHING MEASURES

Mr. Dies has been a bitter opponent of Federal anti-lynching legislation. It is not surprising, therefore, to find him in sympathy with the 'legal lynching' and the star chamber proceedings which characterize the actions of the House committee with regard to the National Negro Congress.

"In answering the charges made, I wish, first, to deal with those contained in the testimony of the witness Steele. The testimony of this witness is in every respect a fantastic distortion and a vicious lie.

"This witness condemns the National Negro Congress because its resolutions have condemned the aggressive acts of Italy, Germany, Japan and the Franco rebels in Spain. In this matter our resolutions spoke only the feeling of millions of black Americans at the rape of Ethiopia, at the brutal attacks against democracy made by these aggressor nations.

"The witness deliberately avoided declaring that our resolutions covering the subject went on record in support of the Chicago speech of President Roosevelt and in support of the Kellogg-Briand Pact and the Nine Power Treaty, representing the established international policy of the United States.

"This witness condemns us because speakers at our Second Congress attacked the actions of Tom Girdler, the Republic Steel Corporation, and the Liberty League. Our resentment against the Republic Steel Corporation is only natural when it is recalled that a Negro steel worker was murdered in the Chicago Memorial Day massacre. Since when has the test of Americanism been made to consist of praise of Tom Girdler, the Republic Steel Corporation, and the Liberty League?

SUPPORTED CIO

"This witness condemns us because we declared vigorously in support of the CIO, industrial unionism, and freedom for the Scottsboro boys. Is it un-American to support the efforts of more than four million organized workers in the CIO? If so, then what member of Congress can deny that he has not welcomed the support of the CIO in his election campaign?

"Is it un-American to seek freedom for nine innocent Negro boys, who according to well known decisions of the United State Supreme Court, have twice been denied a fair trial in conformity with the provisions of our Constitution. If this was treason, we share that treason with tens of millions of American citizens, Negro and white, North and South, who have expressed similar feelings.

"We are condemned for calling for 'reverence to the leaders of the black revolution of the eighteenth century.' There is a slimy and deliberate distortion in this allegation. The only reference to Negroes of the eighteenth century is contacted in the address of our national president, A. Philip Randolph,, at our Second Congress, who declared in this section of his address:

"'Long live the spirit of world peace. Long live the spirit of world democracy. Long live the memory and love of the Black Revolutionists of the 18th century, led by Denmark Vesey, Nat Turner, Gabriel, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass. Long live the valor of those black regiments of slaves and freedmen whose blood and courage made Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation a living reality.'

"The words 'black revolution' were not used. May we ask since when are Negroes supposed to hide their feelings for their forbears who fought to win our freedom?

"Crispus Attucks was a black revolutionist. But since one member of the House Committee was ignorant of the fact that Christopher Marlowe was a dramatist of the Shakespearean period and not a dreaded Communist, it is not surprising that so stupid a person as the witness Steele did not know that Crispus Attucks — a Negro — was the first one to give his life in the American Revolution of 1776.

"We are condemned by witness Steele for receiving messages of greetings from such leaders as John L. Lewis, Tom Mooney, I. Maximilian Martin of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Ben Gold, president of the International Fur Workers Union, and Walter Reuter of the United Automobile Workers of America and the American Labor Party.

"We considered it an honor to ourselves and to the Negro people that Mr. Lewis greeted our convention with so cordial and statesmanlike a message. His message and that of the President of the United States are considered milestones in the history of our organization.

GRATEFUL TO OTHERS

"The thoughtfulness of the other great Americans and American organizations were also received by us with deepest gratitude. Especially is ths so of the message of Tom Mooney, whom the Governor and the people of California have at last made free from the victimization which has been his lot for the past 22 years.

"The witnes charges that James W. Ford — Negro Communist leader — was 'the keynote speaker at the Congress.' This is not true. Mr. Ford who is a duly elected member of our national committee ,spoke briefly on the assigned topic: 'The Life of John Brown.' There is nothing in his speech about Communism.

"The witness charges that Max Yergan delivered a second major address at the Second Congress and that he is 'allegedly an alien ((South African).' This is deliberate distortion.

"Mr. Yergan for 17 years was international YMCA secretary in South Africa. Before leaving America and on frequent periodic returns to this country he was active in the work of the YMCA and in the field of improving race relations.

"In 1926 he was the recipient of the Harmon Award for outstanding work in the field of religion and social services.

"In 1933 he was awarded by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People the Spingarn Medal, as the Negro American who had made the greatest contribution to the advancement of the Negro people in that year. He is a native American, born in Raleigh, North Carolina. He is a national vice president of our organization.

"But the Dies Committee, parroting the lies of this single witness, has the audacity to charge in a public document and publish to the Congress of the United States that our organization is engaged in un-American activity. Not satisfied with the untruths in the testimony of witness Steele, it not only repeats every charge Steele makes, but adds additional slanders of its own.

"The Committee reports declares that it 'found' that the National Negro Congress had a connection with the league of Strugle for Negro Rights and the American Labor Congress and that 'practically the same group of leaders directed these organizations.'

"This is not true. There is no connection between the National Negro Congress and these or any other actual or alleged Communist organizations. Not one of the 15 officers of the Congress has ever been even a member of either of these organizations, and certainly none have been their leaders.

YOUTH CONGRESS NOT AFFILIATED

"The committe mentioned also the Southern Negro Youth Congress. This organization is not directly affiliated with us. But since Edward Strong is an officer in both our organization and the Southern Negro Youth Congress I wish as a matter of actual fact to deny that this organi-

His Art Won

A painting by John Wilder, above, entitled "Spanish Escape" is among those recently chosen by the Federal Artists Projection at Lincoln University. Wilder, 29, is a member of the executive board of the Artists' Union. He finished his training at the Pennsylvania School of Industrial Art. He lives in Philadelphia.

zation is in any sense controlled by Communists.

It will be of interest to record that the First Southern Negro Youth Congress was endorsed by the City Council of Richmond and that the Second Youth Congress was greeted by the Mayor of Chattanooga. As far as I know, neither the Richmond City Council nor Chattanooga's mayor is Communist.

"It also seems important to record that the National Negro Congress meetings have been graced with such brilliant speakers as Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and the Honorable Harold Ickes, than whom we know no finer fighters for true Americanism.

"To conclude, we wish to point out to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members of Congress, that the actions of witness Steele and of the Dies committee represent a deliberate attempt to smear the label of 'un-Americanism' upon a reputable American organization. No doubt the fact that many of its members are Negro attracted Mr. Dies' atention.

"It is an attempt similar in character to the efforts made to smear the C. I. O. and other progressive and truly American organizations, to defame such true Americans as former Governor Frank Murphy, as Miss Frances Perkins, and even members of Congress.

METHODS, UN-AMERICAN

"The methods used in this campaign of slander against us are low and underhanded, are traitorous and un-American. Their purpose is to discredit the attempt of Negro citizens to win their constitutional rights as free citizens in Democratic America. Their purpose is to serve as the first harbingers of fascism to American shores.

"If the committee wer sincere in its attempt to ferret out un-American activities, why did it not investigate the Ku Klux Klan, lynchings, mob violence and organized mobs in Texas? Why did it not investigate the un-American conspiracy in the South to disfranchise free-born Negro American citizens?

"The continuation of the life of such a committee a single day will serve to threaten justice and democracy in America. In the name of millions of Negro people, the National Negro Congress calls on the Congress of the United States to refuse to appropriate a single dime to continue this committee which has shown such an utter disregard of truth."

Davis Denies Negro Congress Is Communist

WASHINGTON

Charging the Dies committee, which investigated un-American activities, with utter disregard of the truth, the National Negro Congress, through John P. Davis, its secretary, has urged Congress to decline to appropriate any funds for the continuation of this committee.

In a letter addressed to Speaker William B. Bankhead of the House, Mr. Davis denied that the Negro Congress is either a Communist organization or that it is controlled by the Communist party.

The committee in its report, submitted to the House on January 3, had made those charges. The letter to Mr. Bankhead stated that:

No Connection

"There is no connection between the National Negro Congress and these or any other actual or alleged Communist organizations. Not one of the fifteen officers of the Congress has ever been even a member of either of these organizations, and certainly none have been their leaders. . . .

". . . the First Southern Negro Youth Congress was endorsed by the city council of Richmond and . . . the Second Youth Congress was greeted by the mayor of Chattanooga. As far as I know, neither the Richmond city council nor Chattanooga's mayor is Communist.

"It also seems important to record that the National Negro Congress meetings have been graced with such brilliant speakers as Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and . . . Harold Ickes, than whom we know no finer fighters for true Americanism."

JONES, McCRAY TO HEAD LOCAL RACE CONGRESS

Both Prominent in Civic Affairs

The Chicago Division of the National Negro Congress announced today that Dewey R. Jones, resident worker at Hull House, had been elected president, and that George F. McCray, director of a local labor research study had been elected Executive secretary to pilot the Congress during 1939.

Observers feel that both Jones and McCray bring to their respective positions a wide experience with the problems of the Negro Community.

"I welcome this opportunity to continue my work on behalf of the community and the things in which we believe," said Jones, McCray is also secretary of the South Side Legislative Commission.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
PETI 53

Memphis Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
January 15, 1939

NEGRO LEADERS NEEDED

The Rev. J. M. Williamson Asks Greater Co-Operation

To The Commercial Appeal:

The National Rural Industrial Association, Inc., organized at Rosedale, Miss., more than half a century ago, has arranged to foster a vigorous campaign over the South against the agitators who cover the South ill advising and robbing my people, the negroes. As a whole, the negroes are unsettled and much dissatisfied in the South; in certain localities and on a number of plantations, where the white people advise and protect the negroes, they are satisfied and doing well.

The negro is an economic factor in the South and it is the interest of the country that the white people see that he is protected and properly educated.

Two main things that unsettled the negro in the South and brought a breach between the two races: first, the system of education and Northern literature and agitators covering the South.

I find very few teachers and leaders of the negro race understand their condition and their needs; many of these leaders and teachers are willing to do more, but they do not know what is best.

The home, the church and the farm are the pillars of Christianity and civilization. Home is the foundation of every individual and every race. Home training must be added to every primary school, building a firm foundation, or the future life is a failure.

One-tenth of the American people are negroes, one-third of the south are negroes. These people are the biggest minority group and considered as the most ignorant group. Seventy-five per cent of these people are feeble minded; they can not be lifted through the schools and made useful unless other steps are taken.

I am asking every one who is interested in the development of the country and advancing the negroes along the proper lines, get in touch with me, giving our past work.

REV. J. M. WILLIAMSON,
President
667 Woodward St., Memphis.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
February 26, 1939

RIGHT LIVING IS URGED

Negro Church Leader Campaigns To Fight Lawlessness

The National Rural Industrial Association, Inc. (negro) is urging regular church attendance every Sunday and a curfew law in the home, in a campaign against lawlessness, according to the Rev. J. M. Williamson, president. Lecturers plan to visit churches and other gatherings after noon today to advise members of the race against lawless living.

Ministers, teachers and leading negroes of Memphis are co-operating with the Rev. Mr. Williamson to clear the slums, with the aim of making the city the cleanest and most law abiding in the country, he said.

McComb, Miss. Journal
April 25, 1939

NEGRO LECTURERS AVAILABLE SAYS REV. WILLIAMSON

Rev. J. M. Williamson, well known negro minister and educator, is offering the services of the National Rural Industrial Association of 667 Woodward St., Memphis, to send lecturers to industrial plants where negro labor is employed. The lecturers will speak at the noon hour and at the churches on Sunday.

The association has done a great work in the South since its organization at Rosedale, Miss., in 1887. Rev. Williamson is well known among both white and negro races.

MAKE NEGROES USEFUL

To The Commercial Appeal:

I am just from an extensive trip over parts of the South, studying conditions, lecturing to and advising my people, the negroes, and conferring with the leading people. I am preaching "back to the farm." I find much of these fine farms lying idle, tenant homes gone to waste, and my people moving to towns, many living useless lives. There is a cause for all of this and if the proper steps are taken, we can correct it and my people will become useful. The negro is an economic factor in the South and it is the interest of everyone to join in this, the greatest work ever launched, to aid these ignorant people.

The system of education since emancipation is the cause of conditions; the fundamentals have been kept out of negro schools. The farm is the greatest institution on earth; it is Divine, the only occupation God gave man was to till the soil. All of the kings and prophets came from the farm; even the Son of God was reared on the farm.

I am asking our Government to cut these lands in small tracts and let our people have them on long, easy terms, with competent teachers, who will teach them along the right way to farm and to live.

I entered the schoolroom as a teacher the first Monday in July, 1875. I found the negroes had the wrong idea in their minds as to educating their children and they are the same today. They think the educated person is not to work on the farm; they are mistaken; the most sensible man is needed on the farm, with good schools, homes and churches, as they raise feed and clothes to take care of the world.

Of my many years teaching and preaching to my people, I find 75 per cent of them are feebleminded; they must attend the primary school where the fundamentals are taught them. When they finish this primary work they are standing between the man and the boy; Nature takes him then and if we follow Nature, we will have useful persons.

This National Rural Industrial Association, Inc., is arranging to cover the entire South and we ask every interested person to get in touch with us, aid us in making the negroes useful people.

J. M. WILLIAMSON,
1217 Cannon Street, Memphis.

MEN WHO 'DO THINGS' IN FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY CONVENE HERE

Select Group of Outstanding Architects, Engineers and Chemists Gather for Three-Day Session.

Paul E. Johnson of Chicago, manufacturer of physical therapy equipment; James A. Parson of Dayton, Ohio, for 17 years mettallurgist with the huge Duriron company there; Lewis K. Downing, dean of the only Negro school of engineering, at Howard University; William Jason, technician with the Ford Motor company in Detroit, and William Thornton, builder of highways and bridges for the state of Illinois, were among the more than 50 outstanding architects, engineers and chemists who attended the National Technical Association's 11th annual convention, held here last week.

A little known organization, the N. T. A. is composed of 300 top technicians whose achievements make them worthy of mention in any scientific who's who.

The local chapter, headed by Louis A. Pelliger, architect, provided three days packed full of informative sessions and entertainment for the out-of-towners who represented seven chapters.

With headquartets at the Centre avenue Y. M. C. A., the men had meetings at the beautiful Foster Memorial Auditorium on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh, at the Carnegie Institute of Technology and at the spacious lodge in North Park.

An encouraging note was struck by Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Harvard graduate and special assistant to the administrator of the United States Housing Authority in Washington, D. C., whose talk featured the public meeting at Foster Memorial auditorium, Friday, September 1. Dr. Weaver pointed out the opportunities offered Negro architects and engineers in the new lost-cost housing projects of the federal government.

At the technical session held at the Carnegie chool, papers were read by Henry F. Binford, maintenance engineer at Howard university; J. C. White, substituting for Francis E. Holbrook, engineer for the department of sanitation, New York City and William Jason, employed with the Ford Motor company.

Election of officers at the business meeting, Sunday, September 3, closed the convention. The results of the election made Paul E. Johnson of Chicago, president; R. C. White of New York, president-elect; J. C. Evans, West Virginia State college, secretary. The next convention will meet in Chicago on the week-end before Labor Day, 1940.

FROM AN EDITOR'S NOTE BOOK

Extracts from Address before the 27th annual meeting of the Negro Organization Society of Virginia, White Stone, November 10.

Journal and Guide

SLUM clearance or low rent housing for low wage earnenrs, and farm rehabilitation are national government policies, written into the federal statutes, making available government subsidies for any state or municipality that wants to improve housing conditions under a practical, workable, self-liquidating plan. But controlling public sentiment in Virginia has rejected this plan. It has been widely accepted by practically all other southern states.

11-23-39 Norfolk, Va.

By rejecting the plan and leaving our marginal population to further disintegrate in the hovels, we probably think that we have escaped this burden of taxation. But we have not escaped it. While South Carolina, and Mississippi, and Florida, and other southern states are availing themselves of the benefits of slum clearance and decent housing, Virginia is paying a large share of the bill, at the same time keeping our slums and our indecent housing.

The taxpayers of Virginia are going to pay their portions of the bill for better housing, whether or not Virginia improves her housing situation.

We Pay, Others Benefit

Mississippi paid into the Federal treasury in 1933 $9 per capita in federal taxes, and received in relief benefits, including public works, $132 per capita.

Virginia paid into the federal treasury in taxes in 1933 $308 per capita and received in relief and other benefits, including public works, $108 per capita.

Those who control our political democracy are deceiving themselves when they reject housing subsidies, farm rehabilitation, health and education funds on the score that they are saving money in the pockets of Virginia taxpayers.

If Virginia does not have the social vision and the social mind to avail herself of these opportunities to aid her underprivileged people, other states will lift their people to higher levels of civilization while Virginia pays the bill.

Consider the poor housing situation in our state in its relation to our chief health problems. I quote the report of the State Department of Health for 1938 on the menace of social diseases:

"Reliable studies indicate the preponderance of syphilis and gonorrhea as occuring in the lower social and economic levels.

The blighting effects of poor housing, ignorance of sex hygiene, frustrated family life and lack of integration of Negro nurses and doctors in the State Health Services are reflected in the high incidence of syphilis and the enormous burden this morbidity imposes upon the state, which compelled to institutionalize these unfortunates.

Fighting TB At The Terminal Point

Since the organization of this Society we have experienced a reduction in the death rate from tuberculosis. In 1913 the colored rate was 276.5 per 100,000 population--about 3 1-2 times that of th ewhite race. The rate ascended in 1914 and remained up until 1919, when a gradual descent began, and this continued until 1937 the rate was 134.5 per 100,000 population. This is three times the white rate.

In the state's handling of the tuberculosis problem we have again a peculiar exhibition of logic. It is agreed that tuberculosis is probably the state's greatest health menace. It is known that in personal service occupations and household work as well as in comon labor the relations of white ad colored people are so close that exposure of the former to contagion is always imminent. It is known that colored people have three times the morbidity rate of white people. Yet, the state provides sanatoria and clinics for three times as many white as colored people.

Democracy In Education Far From Realization.

DURING the past 25 years the public schools of the state have undergone marvelous improvements, although the ideal of democracy in Negro education is far from realization. Equality of educational opportunity is more remote now than it was in 1915. When appraised in relative terms, the only way a proper apprisal can be made, the differentials are wider now than they were 25 years ago.

The educational ictue for the entire south is approximately true for Virginia, in certain important details, although conditions as a whole in this state are far better than they are in some southern states. In the south as a whole, in 1900, the differential in per capita expenditures for white and colored children was 60 per cent in favor of the white. By 1930, this discrimination has increased to 253 per cent. During the same period the discrimnation in the pay of white and colored teachers increased from 52.8 per cent to 113 per cent.

What we have had is a tremendous increase in educational expenditures in the state, with an ever widening differential in ratio of white to colored. This is reflected chiefly in the matter of physical plants, libraries, gymnasiums, recreational centers, and transportation for pupils. While the teacher pay discrimination is a serious matter of injustice, there has been some improvement in that item. That is to say, the discrimination in Virginia now is not as wide as it was in 1915. In that year the cost per pupil, based on teachers' salaries was, for whites $9.64, colored $2.74. The ratio was three to one. In 1935 the cost per pupil based on teacher's salaries, was $32.53 for white, $16.85 for colored. The ratio in that item is two to one.

There is a lack of social conscience in a political democracy that justifies the paying of liquor store janitors with an elementary school education $720 a year while holding the average rural Negro teacher's salary down to $394.

Any true analysis of the educational structure as it relates to Negroes will show that we have borne a considerable share of the cost of providing facilities, especially school houses and their equipment.

Heroic Example of Self-Help

The most heroic example of self-help as well as sacrifice in education in the United States during the past quarter century is the Negroes' contribution to the building of 5000 Rosewald schools in southern states. These schools, which became the property of the states were acquired in the following manner: Colored People, out of their poverty, contributed 44 per cent of the total outlay of $30,000,000; white individuals and public moneys combined made up 40 per cent, and the Rosewald Fund gave 16 per cent. Forty-four per cent of 30 million dollars is $13,400,000, and this is no small contribution to the elementary school structure of the south, and no comparable contribution has been made by any other people, who were at the same time taxed for the identical purpose.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH PEEL 63

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION- 1939

SOUTHERN NEGRO YOUTH CONGRESS

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
January 9, 1939

1938 REPORT MADE BY NEGRO COUNCIL

Activities of Group Include Giving Scholarships and Distributing Baskets

A capacity audience filled the auditorium of the First Congregational church, Ninth and Lindsay streets, last night to hear reports of the past year's activities of the local council of the Southern Negro Youth congress. The conference was held here the first week in April. The organization here grew out of the session.

The council, it was revealed by John L. Pitts, Jr., vice-president, is composed of the Adelphi and Sorosis clubs; Young People's club, of the First Baptist church; the Young Negro Civic league and Local 428 of the American Federation of Teachers.

"These units have carried forward the work as outlined in our conference last April and have brought results of which we are proud," Pitts said in opening the meeting yesterday.

Fifteen Scholarships Awarded

Fifteen scholarships for Negro boys and girls from Howard and Booker T. Washington High schools have been presented to needy students through efforts of the council, Albert F. Seay, president, said in his report. He also named a religious labor foundation, sponsorship of Book week among the city schools, co-operation in organizing a forum on the west side with the federal forum unit, a health survey, the successful promotion of "Wings Over Jordan," a Negro radio singing chorus from Cleveland, O., and Christmas cheer distribution at Newton Community center and the Colored Orphans' home among the council's major contributions to the community.

"We have not solicited from the public as a means either to dispense charity or further our own community development," Seay said.

A report of his activities at the Southern Conference on Human Welfare, held in Birmingham late in November, was made by R. B. Buckner, who was sent there at the expense of the local group.

Walter D. Parks, president of the Young Negro Civic league and chairman of the council's citizenship committee, stated that his league has busied itself with "various groups of young Negroes' who have never before voted, and who did not know the value of suffrage or the duties of a citizen."

"The laws of the state, city and county have been studied, and young groups taught the necessity of becoming qualified for a voice in the government under which they live," he said.

Music was furnished by the Bonny Oaks Boys' quartet. A number of pamphlets published by the conference on education and race relations were distributed.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
March 15, 1939

NEGRO YOUTHS WILL OPEN ANNUAL MEETING

Contributions of Negroes to the South's cultural life will be spotlighted at the third annual All-Southern Negro Youth Conference, which will be held at the Negro Masonic Temple here April 28-30.

Southern organizations dealing with Negro youth problems have been invited to send delegates to the three-day meeting. An art exhibit and music festival will be included on the program.

Birmingham, Ala. News
March 13, 1939

CONFERENCE SET BY NEGRO YOUTH

Three-Day Session In City To Study Problems

Problems and aspirations of Negro youth will be discussed when the third all-Southern Negro Youth Conference convenes in Birmingham for three days beginning April 28.

The first conference was held in Richmond when 534 young men and women assembled and set out to improve conditions under which they and theirs live and labor. Last year the second all-Southern Negro Youth Conference convened in Chattanooga.

To develop a greater appreciation for contributions of the Negro to cultural life, an all-Southern art exhibit and a festival of music is being held in connection with the conference.

All Southern organizations and agencies interested in or dealing with the problems of Negro youth have been asked to send delegates to the conference. Non-delegates, adults as well as youth, are invited to attend. Registration will take place at the Masonic Temple.

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 4, 1939

NEGRO YOUTHS TO MEET HERE

All-Southern Conference To Bring Many To City

Problems and aspirations of Negro youth will bring Negroes from all parts of the country to Birmingham April 28 for the third All-Southern Negro Youth Conference which will continue through April 30.

In February, 1937, the first conference was held at Richmond, Va., with 534 young Negro men and women attending. The conference was placed on a permanent basis and the second one was held at Chattanooga, Tenn., in April of last year.

General sessions will be held at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Sixth Avenue and North Sixteenth Street, and panel meetings will be held here and at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion Church, Fourth Avenue and North Sixteenth Street, and at the Masonic Temple, 1630 Fourth Avenue, North, where headquarters have been established.

Eight objectives pertaining to the mutual problems and aspirations of Negro youth will be discussed as follows: (a) Economic status: the National Youth Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, vocational guidance, apprenticeship training, Negro business and labor movement; (b) citizenship rights: voting, anti-lynching legislation, the national defense program; (c) education: equality in education opportunities, the content of Negro education, federal aid to education; (d) the role of religion in the life of Negro youth; (e) specific problems of rural youth; (f) development of a cooperative relationship with Southern white youth; (g) peace: the preservation of democracy, protection of the rights of racial and religious minorities at home and abroad; (h) special problems: marriage and home life, crime and juvenile delinquency, housing recreation, health.

Consideration also will be given to holding an all-Southern art exhibit and a festival of music in connection with future conferences to develop a greater appreciation for the contributions of the Negro to cultural life.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
April 11, 1939

NEGRO YOUTHS PUSH PLANS FOR MEETING

More Than 1000 Expected To Attend Southern Session

More than 1000 are expected to attend the third All-Southern Negro Youth Conference here April 28-30.

Now two years old, the organization was started in Richmond, Va., with 534 Negro youth organizations represented.

More than 100 Birmingham Negroes have formed an arrangements committee to prepare the conference program.

Edward E. Strong, executive secretary of the organization, has been in the city helping Birmingham Negroes plan for the conference. Headquarters will be in the Negro Masonic Temple Bldg., Fourth-av and 17th-st. n.

thought against the unthinking.

The morning session was given over to the appointment of committees and the mechanics of registration.

The afternoon, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., was scheduled into five group meetings with the following subjects: "Economic Status of Negro Youth," A. M. E. Zion Church Auditorium, Shelley Bell, chairman; "Citizenship Rights," Sixteenth Street Baptist Church basement Will Hale, Jr., chairman; "Education," Metropolitan Church, P. D. Jackson, William Perry, chairmen; "Role of Religion in the Life of Negro Youth," Dr. Joseph W. Nicholson, chairman; "Development of Cooperative Relationship With Southern White Youth," Masonic Temple, Celestine Smith, chairman.

The Friday meetings will be concluded with a citywide youth rally at 7:45 p.m., Sixteenth Street Church, at which Commissioner Jones will make the welcoming address. The program will include music of the A. and M. Institute Choir, and talks by W. F. Richardson, Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, Tourgee A. Dubose, R. O'Hara Lanier and Dr. Henry D. Tillman.

Saturday's program will include panel discussions, a luncheon at Smithfield Court at 12:15 p.m. and a reception at 8 p.m. in the Masonic Temple Auditorium.

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 28, 1939

NEGRO LEADERS GATHER IN CITY

Several Hundred Youths In Attendance At First Session Of Parley

Several hundred Negro young people from every state in the South gathered in Birmingham this morning for the opening session of the third annual All-Southern Negro Youth Conference which began at 10 a.m. in the Negro Masonic Temple.

The conference began with an address by William F. Richardson, chairman, on "Purpose and Scope of the Conference." His talk laid the ground for organization on lines similar to those of the United States government, with representatives from every state and an executive council. According to Richardson the conference purpose is to see what problems lie ahead of the Negro youth, and how they can be met. The need for new leadership, he said, must be filled by weilding

Negro Youth Leader Dares Dies to Probe Lynch Law in South

Strong Declares This 'Hangover from Dark Ages' Is Also 'Un-American' Activity; Accuses Him of Attacking Negro Rights

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Nov. 9.—Branding the treatment of the Negro in the South as the "most barbaric hangover from the dark ages known to the modern world," Edward E. Strong, secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, demanded in a letter to Congressman Martin Dies that he take time off from his witch-hunting campaign to investigate lynchings of Negroes.

"As a Texan," Strong's letter informed Dies, "you must know how Negroes are Jim-Crowed, lynched and segregated in clear violation of the United States Constitution. As a U. S. Congressman from Texas, you also know that Negro citizens in Texas are not allowed to participate in the primaries of your own party. We call these practices un-American."

Charging that Dies has deliberately overlooked the violence practiced against Negroeos, Strong's letter continued:

"If not through an oversight, it would seem that your committee has deliberately failed to investigate the most barbaric hangover from the Dark Ages known to the modern world . . . the lynching and burning to death of innocent Negro men and women. The failure of your committee to investigate the un-Americanism of mob-rule, will prove to Negro Americans that your committee in reality is working to destroy the influence of those organizations in our country which are fighting for the rights of Negroes."

Copies of Strong's letter were sent to President Roosevelt, Vice-President Garner, William Bankhead, Speaker of the House and to Attorney General Frank Murphy.

SOUTHERN YOUTH ASK DIES GROUP TO PROBE KLAN

Revival of Ku Kluxers Should Be Investigated, Young People Tell Congressman

William Bankhead and Attorney General Frank Murphy, with an urgent request that they use their influence to speed investigations of un-American discrimination against Negroes.

BIRMINGHAM.—(ANP)—If the Dies committee is seriously interested in investgating all un-American activities, revival of the Ku Klux Klan and all other organizations formed to terrorize and intimidate Negroes should be thoroughly probed, says a letter addressed to Congressman Martin Dies of Texas by the Southern Negro Youth congress signed by Edward E. Strong, executive secretary.

The communication pointed out that the Dies committee is supposed to have been investigating for months those organizations which carry on activities that are contrary to the principles of American democracy. The letter charged that "if not through an oversight, it would seem that your committee has deliberately failed to investigate the most barbaric hangover from the Dark Ages known to the modern world—the lynching and burning to death of innocent Negro men and women."

"As a Texan," the letter stated, "you must know how Negroes are jim-crowed, lynched, and segregated in clear violation of the United States Constitution. As a U. S. congressman from Texas you also know that Negro citizens in Texas are not allowed to participate in the primaries of your own party. We call these practices un-American."

Mr. Strong concluded his letter by charging that "the failure of your committee to investigate the un-Americanism of mob-rule will prove to Negro Americans that your committee in reality is working to destroy the influence of those organizations in our country which are fighting for the rights of Negroes. . . . The test of democracy, Dr. Frank Graham has pointed out, is how America treats its Negro minority. This, Congressman Die is, also the test of your committee."

A copy of the letter from the youth congress was sent to President Roosevelt, to Vice-President Garner, speaker of the house, to

Southern Youth Congress Organized In 13 States: Ready For Vote Fight

By EDWARD E. STRONG

The Southern Negro Youth Congress—the new progressive movement in the South today—originated as the result of a conference called in Richmond, Va., in February 1937.

Over five hundred eager young people gathered from the 13 Southern States and unanimously agreed that there was a need among them for some permanent organization concerned with the most vital needs of youth, jobs, education, civil rights, and recreation.

Thus the Southern Negro Youth Congress was formed. It was not to be a membership organization, but a coordinating agency for youth groups already existing in the South—a pooling of their mutual strength to secure, for example, more jobs, or better recreational facilities, or, in some cities, the right to vote.

Intensive Struggle

The Richmond conference was followed by two years of intensive activity and struggle against numerous odds.

First of all, the Southern Negro Youth Congress was new. It had to prove to the South that it was a stable movement going somewhere, and not just another bubble of agitation in the lives of the Race.

The success of the Congress in organizing 5,000 tobacco workers in the Richmond factories, winning for them $250,000 annually in wage increases proved beyond a doubt that the young people were serious about their determination to improve their economic status.

The movement faced, too, a short-lived suspicion that here was a new rival attempting to oust the older, more experienced adult leadership in the South. The Congress, however, earnestly sought and succeeded in obtaining the cooperation of the South's foremost educators, ministers and businessmen.

The annual conferences of the Southern Negro Youth Congress have been sponsored and attended by the South's most prominent Race members.

At present, Dr. F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee is head of its adult advisory board. Sponsors of its third conference, recently held in Birmingham, included Dr. Alain Locke, Mrs. Mary Bethune, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Dr. Forrester B. Washington, Dr. Marshall Talley and others.

Setup in 13 States

Today the Congress has established itself as not only the most progressive movement among Race youth in the South, but also as the most important movement among youth in America. Its 40 councils are organized in 13 Southern states.

In Birmingham it has played an active part with the N.A.A.C.P. in the first right-to-vote movement Alabama has seen in two generations. In New Orleans Congress young people have just concluded a successful petition campaign, securing $5,000 signatures to keep a beach open for the Race citizens.

The Congress has launched three Negro Community theatres which are interested in presenting a true picture of Race life on the stage and in giving young artists a chance for development. These theatres are in Richmond, New Orleans, and Birmingham.

Besides its social program for jobs, education, health, and the ballot for Southern Race youth, the Congress is making a contribution to the cultural awakening of the South.

In Birmingham last May, the Congress sponsored both a music festival and the first all-Southern exhibit of paintings and sculpture by young Race artists. According to present plans this work will become more and more a major part of the Congress program.

Future Looks Hopeful

The future of the Southern Negro Youth Congress looks hopeful. The white South is developing its own progressive movements which confront practically the same problems as the Race youth.

A case in point is the movement against the poll tax and for the extension of the franchise in the Southern states in which members of the Race as well as many white liberals are engaged.

At each of the three conferences of the congress there has been a small but vitally interested group of young white Southerners. They no longer rely on traditional prejudices against the Race, and are out to find the truth for themselves.

They come from the colleges, the Y's, trade unions and from liberal groups like the Council of Young Southerners. They are willing to see the Race progress because this means the progress of the entire South.

Thus in the eyes of white as well as Race progressive thinkers, the Southern Negro Youth Congress is helping to stimulate and to direct one of the most significant movements on the American scene.

Health Bill Also Will Be Considered

Southern Congress To Discuss Plans In 1-Day Assembly

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—An emergency session of the National Council of the Southern Negro Youth Congress will meet here for a one-day session on December 30, to formulate plans for bringing pressure upon the Dies Committee to investigate the revival of the Ku Klux Klan in the South and to draft a peace program for colored youth which will help keep the country out of the European war, has been announced by the National Office of the Congress.

SUPPORT EXPECTED

Another item on the agenda of the meeting is the proposal of the NAACP to various organizations to join in forming a national coordinating committee for equitable distribution of federal aid to health.

The council is expected to endorse the suggestion and to outline a procedure to obtain widespread support from colored youth for the health activities of the coordinating committee.

The council will consider in detail the fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference which will meet in New Orleans in April, the third anniversary of the congress, the suggestion of an all-Southern festival of Negro culture, patterned after the frolic festivals of Europe, to be held in the spring of 1941 or 1942, and the publication of "Cavalcade," an official organ for the Congress.

Seventy-five youth members of the council, members of the adult advisory board of the Congress, observers from the National Youth Administration, and leaders in the various fields of art are expected to participate in the deliberations of the meeting.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute and chairman of the adult advisory board of the Congress; Bishop B. G. Shaw of the AMEZ Church; Prof. Randolph Edmonds, professor of drama at Dillard University; Miss Margaret Valiant, associate adviser, Arts and Crafts NYA; W. H. Shell, assistant on Negro Affairs of the NYA of Georgia, and Dr. Marshall Talley dean of the National BYPU and Sunday School Congress will be among the adults to observe the emergency session of the council.

Edward E. Strong, executive secretary of the SNYC, Miss Thelma Dale, vice-chairman and chairman of the Washington Youth Federation, Albert F. Seay, chairman of the Chattanooga Council of the SNYC, and Raymond Tillman of Louisiana, Dr. James E. Jackson Jr., of Virginia, both state chairman of the congress, are among the leaders of young people in the South who will attend the meeting of the council.

IMPORTANCE STRESSED

The importance of the national council meeting was emphasized in a letter sent to members of the council by Mr. Strong, executive secretary of the congress.

"The increasing possibility of the National council meeting was emphasized in a letter sent to members of the council by Mr. Strong executive secretary of the congress

"The increasing possibility of America's entrance into the European war," Mr. Strong wrote, "the continued widespread unemployment among colored young people the rapid revival in the South of the Ku Klux Klan, along with a host of other pressing problems make is more necessary than ever that national council members fully assume their responsibili leaders of the Congress.

"We were elected to our positions by the 606 young people who participated in the third All-Southern Negro Youth Conference. We owe it to them and to ourselves to leave no stone unturned in our efforts to make a contribution to the welfare of our people in the South."

The Nashville Council of the Southern Negro Youth Congress under the leadership of the Nashville chairman, Thomas Darden tional council members and guests will hold a reception for the na at the adjournment of the meeting.

Birmingham Host To 4th Southern Regional Meeting

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—"Be ashamed to die until you have done something worthwhile for humanity," asserted J. L. LeFlore, regional chairman of the Southern branches of the NAACP, Friday night before a large opening gathering of the three-day conference at the Sixteenth Street Baptist church.

Chairman LeFlore urged the audience to "try to improve the conditions of the group" as he told of his investigation of a recent lynching in which he visited the town and found 17 members of the mob with the sheriff who claimed that he could not identify a single one of them.

Nine welcome messages came from leaders. Herman Long, of the Miles Memorial college faculty, deviated in his greetings to appeal to the conference to tackle the problem of health among Negroes of the south after presenting statistics showing "the race is dying out in the south."

Harold L. Ickes, secretary of Interior, sent greetings to the meeting. He invited America to "come back to first essentials" and praised the NAACP as "one of the vital forces striving to maintain America as a peace loving nation". He lauded the association's "courageous fight to alleviate some of the special disabilities with which the Negro finds himself burdened".

Phillip A. Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in his letter of greetings, pleaded for "the abolition of lynching, political disfranchisement, educational inequalities, employment discrimination in federal and state governments and private industry, the denial of civil rights and justice in the courts".

Senator Arthur Clapper of Kansas, sent a letter of greetings, expressing his appreciation of the outstanding "contribution the association has made in advancing the interest of the colored citizens and in improving racial relations."

50 Leaders To Attend Youth Meet

Walter White And Dr. Patterson May Speak

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—One thousand young persons representing organizations in every southern state will gather in Birmingham, Ala., on April 28 for the third meeting of the All-Southern Negro Youth Conference. Just twice the size of the first conference held in Richmond, Va. three years ago the delegates will discuss in their panel sessions the following subjects: Economic Status of Negro Youth, Citizenship Rights Role of Religion in the Life of Negro Youth, Problems of Rural Youth, Peace and Democracy. Race Relations and Special Problems of Negro Youth.

More than fifty outstanding southern and national leaders representing widely known educational institutions, the city and national government and organizations will attend the youth conference as panel leaders and as speakers. Among the best known speakers are Walter White secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute; Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, president Talladega College; Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president Palmer Memorial College, Dr. H. Council Trenholm, president Alabama State Teachers College; Dr. Marshall A. Talley. Secretary of Religious Education for Baptist; Forrester B. Washington, Atlanta School of Social Work; James E. Jones, president Birmingham City Commission; Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Special Assistant to U. S. Housing Authority; Bishop B. G. Shaw, AMEZ Church; Alvin L. Holsey and Joseph H. B. Evans of the United States Dept of Agriculture, R. O'Hara Lanier, J. P. Bond, Jr., Mrs. Venice T. Spragg of the National Youth Administration J. M. Nabrit, Executive Secretary of Howard University; W. J. Hale, Jr., Tenn. State College; Oscar W. Adams, Secretary Extension of the AMEZ Church; Mrs. John Hope, Celestine Smith, National Student Secretary of the YWCA; Atty. A. D. Shores and Mrs. H. C. Bryant.

BIG CHORUS

The early arrivals will be entertained with a Festival of Music composed of a hundred voice city-wide choir, the Tuskegee Quintet, Talladega college choir. A. and M. College choir, Industrial and Dunbar High School's choirs and many individual musical numbers. W. W. Whetstone is in charge of the music for the conference.

In addition to the music festival that is an addition this year for the conference an art exhibit consisting of one hundred pieces of art will be displayed during the conference.

The Birmingham conference will mark the largest gathering of southern Negroes in an attempt to point youth in the right direction that has taken place since freedom of the Negro. Local white leaders will attend the conference as resource leaders for the panels.

All sessions of the conference will be held near the Negro Business district of Birmingham in the fashionable Sixteenth St. Baptist Church, the Metropolitan AMEZ Church and the Masonic Temple building, where headquarters are now located. A luncheon, addressed by Forrester B. Washington will be held together with the art exhibit, in the new Smithfield Court government housing project. in the residental area adjoining Industrial High School, said to be the largest of its kind in the world.

Officers of the Youth Conference are Wm. F. Richardson, chairman; Edward E. Strong, Executive Secretary; Herman H. Long, chairman of Arrangements committee; Mrs. H. C. Bryant chairman of program committee; H. D. Coke, chairman, Speakers Bureau, Mrs. M. L. Hooks, chairman of the Church committee and Miss E. I. Pendergrass, chairman, Art Committee.

YOUTH CONFERENCE

Birmingham, Ala., March 1—The second most significant meeting to select Birmingham as it gathering place in the history of the South will open April 28-30 when delegates representing youth organizations of all descriptions convene for the **THIRD ALL-SOUTHERN NEGRO YOUTH CONFERENCE. THE ORGANIZATION**, now two years old, was started in **RICHMOND, VA.**, when 534 youth organizations were represented and several hundred observers were present. It met in Chattanooga in 1938.

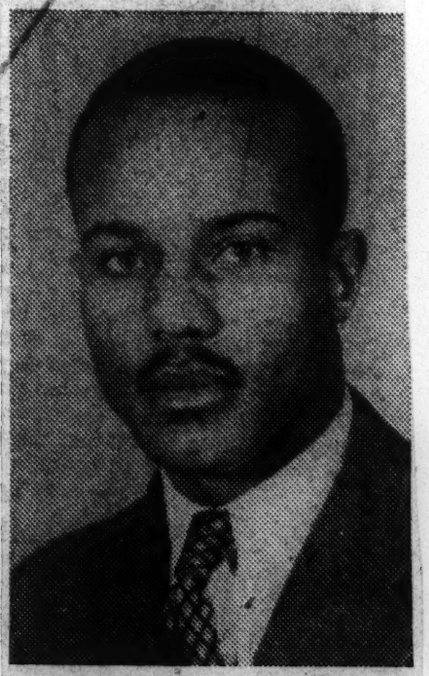
More than one hundred outstanding local citizens representing, schools, churches, labor, medicine, law society and business have formed an **ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE** to prepare a program for the conference and word has been received from more than one hundred important leaders all over the nation assuring sponsorship of the meeting.

Mrs. H. C. Bryant, first Negro resident of the South to become national board member of the **YWCA** is serving as chairman of the Program Committee. She announces that some of the most prominent persons in the South and the nation will appear on the program as principal speakers, also will lead the panel discussions.

Mr. Edward E. Strong, Executive Secretary, Southern Negro Youth Congress is in the city helping local citizens plan for the conference. Mr. William F. Richardson, Chairman of the S.N.Y.C. is expected soon.

Announcements of the meeting are being sent to ten thousand organizations and individuals in the South and a delegation of more than one thousand is expected. Headquarters: Colored Masonic Temple Building, Room 406 at 4th Ave. and 17th St., North in Birmingham.

DELEGATE TO "WORLD YOUTH CONFERENCE"



EZEKIEL E. CHAPPELLE. JR.

Mr. Ezekiel E. Chappelle, Jr., of Greenwood, South Carolina has been chosen by the students of Howard University's Theological department to attend the "World Youth Conference" in Amsterdam, Holland. The conference will convene July 24th, through August 3rd. Mr. Chappelle was chosen by a unanimous vote of the students in the School of Religion.

Mr. Ezekiel E. Chappelle, Jr., is a graduate of Benedict college, Columbia, S. C., While matriculating at Benedict, he served as president of the Y.M.C.A. and "Kirkland Ministerial Union". He was elected to the official council of the regional division of the King's

Mountain" conference in 1935 under the leadership of Robert King national student-secretary. In 1936 he was sent as an official representnantniv of the college to attend the Southern Negro Youth conference in Richmond, Va. In numerous racial and inter-racial conferences has he participated.

At present Mr. Chappelle is attending the School of Religion of Howard university persuing work towards his B.D., degree. He is engaged in religious work at Metropolitan Bapt. church, Washington, D. C., under the leadership of Dr. E. C. Smith.

The "Inter-Seminary Movement" group will sail July 3rd and return during the latter part of August.

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 16, 1939

NEGRO YOUTHS OF SOUTH TO GATHER

1,000 Meet In Birmingham In April For Conference; Speakers Listed

Some 1,000 young Negroes, representing every Southern state, will convene in Birmingham April 28 for the third meeting of the All-Southern Negro Youth Conference.

Planned to highlight the sessions are discussions pertinent to the Negro youth of the South: Topics dealing with the economic status of the Negro youth, citizenship rights, the role of religion in the life of the Negro, problems of rural youth, peace and democracy, race relations and special problems of Negro youth.

The parley will bring together more than twice as many delegates as those attending the first conference held three years ago in Richmond, Va.

A number of widely known speakers will appear before the body. Among those slated to appear are: Walter White, secretary, National Association for the Advance of Colored People; Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, Tuskegee Institute; Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, president, Talladega College; Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president Palmer Memorial College; Dr. H Council Trenholm, president, Alabama State Teachers College; Dr. B Washington, Atlanta School of Social Work; James E. Jones, president, Birmingham City Commission; Dr. Robert C. Weaver, specia assistant, U. S. Housing Authority Bishop B. G. Shaw, A. M. E. Zion Church; Alvin L. Holsey and Joseph H. B. Evans, of the United States Department of Agriculture R. O'Hare Lanier, J. P. Bond, Jr and others.

Musical feature of the conferenc will be a 100-voice city-wide choi Tuskegee Quintet, Talladega Col lege Choir, A. & M. College Choir Industrial and Dunbar High Schoo Choirs. W. W. Whetstone is i charge of music.

Sessions will be held at the Six eenth Street Baptist Church, th Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion and th Negro Masonic Temple.

Officers of the conference ar William F. Richardson, chairman Edward Strong, executive secretary Herman L. Long, chairman of ar rangements committee; Mrs. H. C Bryant, chairman of program com mittee; H. D. Coke, chairman speaker bureau, and Mrs. M. L. M Hooks, chairman of the church com mittee.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. NEWS
APR 23, 1939 M5

What Negroes Are Doing

BY OSCAR ADAMS

Birmingham will open its doors this week for the reception of delegates and friends to the All-Southern Negro Youth Conference which will hold a three-day session here beginning Friday. The conference will bring together a large number of young people from all parts of the South, and outstanding persons from various sections of the nation who will appear on the program.

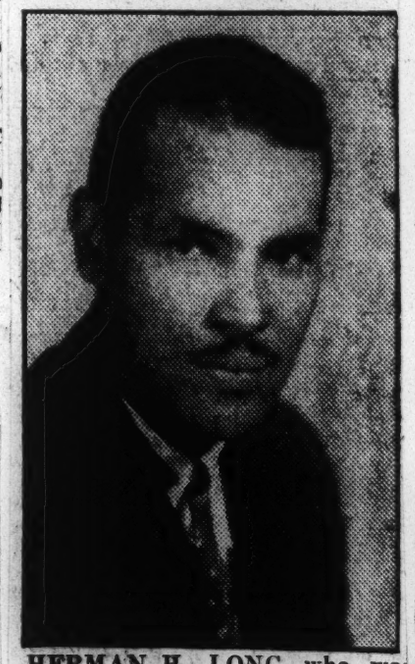
An interesting feature of the convention will be an art exhibit which opens at the auditorium of Smithfield Court next Sunday, with a tea, and will be open daily from 3 to 9 p.m. There will be more than 100 pieces of art in the collection, and marks the first time in the history of the nation that youth has been given the opportunity to display their art in so large a way. The largest single collection will come from the National Youth Administration; the most noted will come from William H. Moses, Jr., instructor in architectural drawing, Hampton Institute, whose works have been secured through the Virginia State World Fair Commission, and will go to New York for the World's Fair following their showing here.

John Rhoden, student, Birmingham Industrial High School, now in New York; Henry J. Williams, Augustus Williams, students at Alabama State Teachers College, Montgomery; Cornelius Stabton, Tuskegee Institute, Dillard University, Virginia State; Stephen Watkins Birch, of St. Marks, and many other artists will exhibit their work.

Other features will be the singing of 100-voice city-wide choir, the Dunbar High School and Industrial High School choirs, and a play which will be presented Saturday afternoon in the auditorium of the Colored Masonic Temple, by the Players Guild of Dillard University. The play will be directed by Prof. Randolph Edmonds.

All local groups are urged to elect at least two representatives to the conference. The opening program will be held at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church Thursday night. The public is invited.

Chairman of Youth Congress



HERMAN H. LONG who was elected by delegates from thirteen Southern states as chairman of the All-Southern Negro Youth Congress during its third annual sessions in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Long is a member of the Miles Memorial College faculty in Birmingham.

ENLISTS 10,000 IN 15 STATES OF SOUTHLAND

Defender

Slogan Of Movement: 'Full Citizenship Rights For All'

1-22-39

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 21 — The Southern Negro Youth Congress has launched a campaign to enlist 10,000 Negro young people in 15 Southern states in a crusade for voting. Under the slogan of "Full citizenship rights for all" these young people will conduct an intensive 12 months drive on the significance of Negroes' voting.

The laws pertaining to voting in every Southern state have been carefully studied by officials of the Congress for several months. The youth volunteers will thoroughly acquaint themselves with the laws governing registration in their respective communities, poll tax laws, and other questions dealing with voting. This knowledge they will attempt to spread among the non-voting section of the Race population to increase their interest in civic affairs.

The methods to be used have been chosen out of the past experience of the Youth Congress in citizenship drives. Special efforts are again being made to reach first voters who are just 21 years old, before high poll taxes have accumulated. Another device to be used is holding Citizenship Institutes where people will be instructed in the procedure of registering and qualifying as voters.

10,000 Youths in Move

"The 'Full citizenship rights for all' campaign," said Edward E. Strong, executive secretary of the Congress, "is an important development among Southern Race youth. It indicates that Negro young people are working to achieve the most fundamental and essential right in a democracy—the right to vote. We have come to recognize the ballot as the major instrument for attaining adequate housing, improved health conditions for the rural youth in the South, and for the general raising of the cultural level of our youth. We fully believe that 10,000 young people will dedicate themselves to this cause. We are confident that 10,000 Southern youth will accept this responsibility as the most stirring challenge of our day and time."

Vote Drive Begun

The Birmingham Council of the Southern Negro Youth Congress has already begun its voting drive, assisting the Birmingham Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. Registration books in the city open August 9 for a brief period. A series of meetings each week between now and that date is scheduled in an effort to bring out a large number of Negroes to register on that date.

A voting manual, presenting in simple form, all the questions that voters need to know is being distributed. Cooperation of the large numbers of Negroes enrolled in local labor unions is being secured through the Youth Congress Labor committee.

All organizations in the South are being invited to cooperate in the "Full citizenship rights for all" campaign.